

Please continue to allow XM Radio to broadcast traffic information. I am a professor of information systems at the University of Michigan - Dearborn, and I spend a lot of time in my telecommunications and networking classes discussing telecomm regulation and public policy. One area I really focus on with my students is the interaction of markets and legislation. Quite often we try to answer market forces we don't like with legislation and regulation, and often the lobbyists with the most dollars and influence get their market-altering forces implemented. Here is a case where NAB is trying to regulate its way out of market forces which it doesn't like.

I subscribe to XM Radio because it offers programming not available in my area. I can get Sporting News, ESPN, and Fox Sports radio products, in addition to CNBC and CNN radio feeds. These are copyrighted broadcasts that XM pays the rights-holders a fee to rebroadcast. However, there is nothing copyrighted about traffic accidents or construction in a metro area. I look forward to the XM radio traffic broadcasts because frankly they are better than anything else available in the the Detroit metro area. WWJ broadcasts traffic every 10 minutes (for about 60 seconds) and WDFN broadcasts traffic every 30 minutes (for about 30 seconds). WWJ's and WDFN's products are far inferior to the XM radio traffic reports.

I still listen to local radio, especially WDFN Sports Radio 1130. However, their products just don't offer me the complete choice set that I desire, and I supplement it with XM. We all know that there is no more powerful force than competition. Without competition, local radio will continue to offer substandard products. Allow XM to be that market-regulating force.

Thank You.